

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 331

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the Y-12 National Security Complex  
upon the seventieth anniversary of its  
construction.

WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initial construction of the Y-12 plant  
in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a key milestone in world history; and

WHEREAS, in early 1943, in the midst of the second World War, ground was broken in  
rural East Tennessee for the first production building at the Y-12 Electromagnetic Separation  
Plant; and

WHEREAS, Y-12's World War II task, separating large amounts of uranium-235 from  
natural uranium, was so difficult that many experts thought the task impossible or that it would  
take decades; and

WHEREAS, Y-12's World War II technology, called "Calutrons," was revolutionary for its  
time, having never been attempted on such a scale before; and

WHEREAS, despite its great difficulty, Y-12's mission was accomplished in a mere two  
and a half years by tens of thousands of East Tennessee Manhattan Project workers, the Army  
Corps of Engineers, and a top-flight scientific team; and

WHEREAS, Y-12's World War II success helped end the most destructive war in human  
history, a war that caused the deaths of an estimated 50 million people or more; and

WHEREAS, Y-12's production of nuclear components, including the separation of  
lithium-6 and other special materials, was also essential in winning the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a World War II for almost seven decades is a remarkable  
tribute to Y-12 and the Manhattan Project, considering that only two decades separated World  
Wars I and II; and

WHEREAS, today the state-of-the-art facilities at Y-12 continue to supply wide-ranging, first-of-a-kind technology to our nation, contributing to medical breakthroughs, providing feedstock for the nuclear Navy, important agricultural advancement, precision machining for essential manufacturing, and space exploration; and

WHEREAS, the Y-12 Site has played an integral role as a good community partner in the growth of Oak Ridge and the East Tennessee area; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Y-12 National Security Complex upon its seventieth anniversary and express our gratitude to this facility for its positive impact upon local governments, the citizens of this great State, and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.